

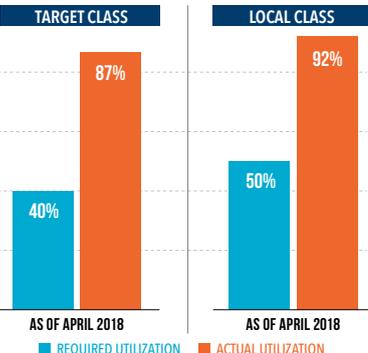
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## A Warden, a Teacher and a Banker: One Business' Journey to Success in Dominating the Landscaping Industry

### By the Numbers



Program Costs Expended To Date  
**\$82.9M**

Local/Minority Business Participation  
**\$72.2M**

Phase I Estimate at Completion

Number of Sites	Estimated Acres
<b>94</b>	<b>2,000</b>

Current Status Completed/In Progress

# of Sites Apr '18	Credits Acres
<b>94</b>	<b>1,866</b>

Reporting period as of April 18, 2018.

In August 2017, the Clean Water Partnership Mentor Protégé Program accepted its second cohort of entrepreneurs including Community Bridge, a facility management company with operational offices in the District of Columbia (DC) and Maryland. The certified, woman owned company began to take form when DC Department of Corrections warden, Denise Shelton, mother of current President Shawn Nance, led the Electronic Monitoring Program for DC Department of Corrections. In this role, she facilitated various Work Program projects, inclusive of landscape services, whereby she was in charge of over 300 inmates who performed various landscape services during the day. Her passion for assisting returning citizens led to a business venture that would bridge these young men to reconnect with their communities in a positive manner (hence the name, Community Bridge). Shelton envisioned the business serving as a halfway house; however the need for other supportive services such as assistance with child support payments and credit repair, led to a wider expansion of what the business offered. Serving as a sub-contractor to landscape companies, the business thrived in providing laborers and foremen for landscaping and janitorial services, some of whom are still employed by Community Bridge today. After many years of success, Shelton persuaded her daughter to join and eventually run the business.

Working in the education field at the time, she was hesitant due to her lack of knowledge of the landscaping industry. Nonetheless, she accepted, and coupled her education and people skills to learn the business and continue the legacy. Nance convinced her longtime friend (of Hampton University), Carla Haynes, to leave her career in banking and join her as the Business Development Officer, assisting with growth and expansion. Both Haynes and Nance admit that it's been tough—maneuvering as an all-female-cast in a male dominated industry, but they didn't let that stop them.

The firm held solid contracts between DC and Florida with services being rendered through their temporary labor, janitorial and landscaping divisions. Despite the slip in the economy, the firm remained steady and was able to retain their staff and provide a stable workflow for their foreman. Business was good, workers were happy and Community Bridge was able to offer their employees much more than a job and paycheck. "We wanted to help them with the bare basics whether that was paying child support, building soft skills or learning about credit and finances," said Haynes. Nance added that there is also a home buying program in which the goal is for

*Story continues on page 4*



## CWP hosts Community Outreach Training for Contractors and Engineers

Largo, Maryland

Community Outreach is at the core of each Clean Water Partnership (CWP) project. The engagement with homeowners, school officials, municipal leaders and church congregation are critical to the design, construction and maintenance components of the program, as well as the reputation of the Partnership. On February 26th, the CWP's Community Outreach team hosted a mandatory training session for all General Contractors, Sub-contractors and Design Engineers operating within the CWP. The training began with a refresher of the outreach consultants' roles, responsibilities and project assignments. The agenda quickly moved into the importance of information gathering in which the outreach consultants utilizes device details and construction logistics to complete each project's individualized outreach plan. They stressed the importance of these program tools and resources that are required to successfully conduct outreach before, during and after construction. A few of the many items covered were renderings, staging plans, maintenance of traffic plans, and declaration of covenants—all critical in educating stakeholders about device operations and imminent construction. Participants also shared a few laughs as outreach consultants performed skits that showcased hypothetical on-site interactions with stakeholders and occurrences at community meetings. The scenes provided a platform for discussion on how to appropriately address concerns while maintaining the integrity of the program. Although the CWP has maintained a great reputation throughout the many Prince George's County neighborhoods it has served, it was imperative to touch on daily site clean-up, permit signage, safety and how to handle media requests. The training concluded with a discussion on project close-out, highlighting the maintenance transfer meetings held with each stakeholder upon construction completion. Contractors and engineers were extremely receptive of the information and appreciated the insight to the outreach program. The CWP outreach team, contractors and engineers continuously meet on a weekly basis to discuss stakeholder engagement, construction schedules and other program operations.

## Engineering 101: African American Inventors Inspires Students

College Park, Maryland



This past February, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) team had the pleasure of volunteering at the College Park Aviation Museum for the Engineering 101 event, honoring African American inventors. The day began with discussions about African American inventors who have made huge impacts on society, creating critical inventions such as the spark plug to an all-time childhood favorite, the Super Soaker. The

sixty plus students in attendance were challenged to utilize the inventors as inspiration to construct a table made of newspaper and masking tape, with the assistance of volunteers from the community. Partnered in teams of four, the students built tables that were strong enough to hold books.

"We enjoyed having the CWP join us for a day of engineering fun! The attendees enjoyed having the ladies from CWP there as not only exhibitors, but as coaches and teachers as well. Watching these professionals in the field interact with the students was such a joy" said Amanda Elliott with Prince George's County Parks and Recreation whom made this all possible. The CWP remains committed to supporting activities in Prince George's County in which students are exposed to careers within engineering, technology and other aspects of environmental planning. The Engineering 101 event is held every 3rd Saturday of the month at the College Park Aviation Museum. For those interested in participating or partnering at an upcoming Engineering 101 event, please contact Amanda at 301-864-5312 or [Amanda.Elliott@pgparks.com](mailto:Amanda.Elliott@pgparks.com).

## Planning Underway for CWP's Largest Community Project to Date

Beltsville, Maryland

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) is excited to share information about the upcoming Birmingham Estates project located in Beltsville. With construction expected to commence in summer 2018, the CWP is proposing 11 stormwater filtration structures that are designed for high flow treatment and high pollutant removals. These structures, also referred to as tree boxes, will allow treated water to infiltrate into surrounding soils while an attached filter panel will allow the structure to completely drain between storm events. Devices will be located adjacent to roadways and within the County right-of-way. The CWP's Community Outreach team has distributed a round of notices to Birmingham Estates residents that will be directly impacted by the construction of these devices. Potential impacts include noise during construction, loss of parking and street closures. Prior to construction, the outreach team will host a series of meetings to provide information on the installation process and timeline of the project. Nardi Construction will lead as general contractor on the project and will also attend meetings to answer questions. The Birmingham Estates project is a first for the CWP due to the number of stormwater devices being installed in a single residential community. For more information on the project and to be added to the mailing list for upcoming meetings, please email [Kristina.bigby@thecleanwaterpartnership.com](mailto:Kristina.bigby@thecleanwaterpartnership.com)

## CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT

# Empire Landscape, LLC

### How long has your company been in business?

Empire Landscape has been in business since 2005. We obtained MBE/DBE status in 2008.

### What is your specialty?

Empire specializes in environmental restoration including; reforestation, stormwater management, bioretention planting and maintenance and TMDL work; invasive species management; erosion and sediment controls, bioengineering; hydroseeding, tree work, root pruning and more.

### What is a typical day like for you?

Each day we have 6 to 10 different projects in operation. Our projects are inherently unique, each with different types of work, specification requirements, scheduling restrictions, and tracking/reporting/billing procedures. The focus of our Estimating, Project Management, and Production teams is to ensure that each of these components come together so that our projects are completed on-time, safely and per the contract specifications.

### What do you like best about your job?

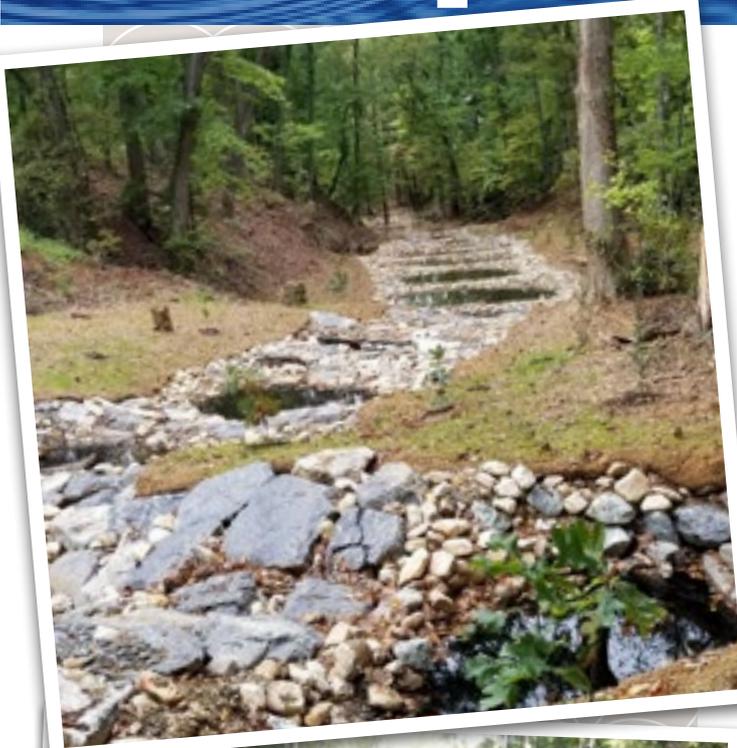
Completing work that helps improve biodiversity and water quality while working with other environmentally-minded colleagues. As a team, we enjoy providing excellent services as a subcontractor while helping GC's meet their MBE requirements for each of their projects.

### What CWP projects have you worked on thus far?

601 Crain Highway, Dillie Drive, Towns of Walker Mill, Beltsville Branch Library, Glenarden Library, Largo Kettering Library, Oxon Hill Library, Adnell Woods and Glenarden Elementary School.

### What are you looking forward to gaining from this program?

Empire is looking to expand its outreach to new General Contractors working with Clean Water Partnership to improve water quality. In addition we hope potential employees with a background in environmental work will learn about Empire Landscape and be interested in growing, learning and working with our team of hard-working, dedicated employees.



### LEARN MORE

#### Certifications:

MDOT DBE/MBE

PG County MBE

#### Website:

[www.empirelandscape.com](http://www.empirelandscape.com)

#### Phone:

301-775-8651

## A Warden, A Teacher, and a Banker, COVER STORY CONT'D

every foreman to own a home in two years. Those same individuals that weren't ready three years ago are now on track to purchase their first home! A couple of years ago, both Nance and Haynes realized that the majority of their employees had never been on a plane—many of whom had never left DC. The company organized a trip to Miami so that they could experience that very first plane ride, as well as see a white sandy beach. They have also been on a cruise and seen the bright lights of Las Vegas. "While some colleagues saw this as time for leisure and parties, we saw this as an opportunity to expose them to other cultures and appreciate other experiences" said Nance on the critiques received. "These guys are now taking their children and families on vacations; it's changing their perspectives on life and we are happy to be able to provide that for them," she added.

Stormwater management had become increasingly popular in the DMV and piqued the interest of Haynes, who added the goal of working with the new Prince Georges County stormwater partnership to the company's vision board. The team had ventured out into several different landscaping services and performed extremely well, but knew that stormwater would be a different animal. Two years later, a dream became reality when the firm was inducted into the CWP's Mentor Protégé Program. Both Nance and Haynes have described their experience with the MPP as "simply amazing!" As business leaders, they are learning new strategies around building capacity and development, receiving assistance with RFP responses, and obtaining access to an immense number of resources. Since joining the program, Community Bridge has performed routine aesthetic maintenance on many stormwater projects, including several schools, libraries and municipal sites. Mowing/trimming, trash/sediment/debris removal, weeding and mulching are some of the services the team is providing to ensure the projects meet the program's long-term maintenance requirements. This past March, the company held a groundbreaking for a new building in DC. In attendance were community leaders, clients, supporters and laborers who had been with the team since its launch. Located on Division Avenue in Washington DC, the new space will serve as home to their corporate offices, well equipped with a space for rooftop entertainment. The team has aspirations of growing their stormwater division to compete on the same level as their landscaping division. Ultimately, they would like to increase business flow outside of the states, they're currently conducting operations to establish additional Community Bridge offices—all while keeping the mission at the forefront. When asked of advice they'd share with women business owners looking to transition to the stormwater industry, "Don't be afraid of it—just take a leap and jump. Be prepared, do your research and don't back away from the challenge."

Community Bridge holds the following certifications: Metro, Certified Business Enterprise Program, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, DC Department of Small & Local Business Development, Maryland Department of Transportation U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. General Services Administration, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

To learn more about this wonderful organization, please visit <http://community-bridge.com/>.



## CWP Green Infrastructure Exchange Expo

Largo, Maryland

The CWP hosted a Green Infrastructure Exchange Expo to showcase technologies and innovative methods utilized in green infrastructure. Dr. Allen P. Davis P.E., Professor at University of Maryland, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, served as keynote speaker and discussed the past, present, and future of stormwater management. Dr. Davis further explained how increases in stormwater events would yield a growing number of target pollutants, stressing the need for more customized BMPs utilizing new technologies to better clean water flowing into our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans. Over 80 attendees had the opportunity to check out the following exhibitors: ACF Environmental, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Arya Civil, Contech Engineered Solutions, Environmental Construction Solutions, Filtrexx, Flexipave, J&B Fabricators, Maccareffi, Oldcastle Precast, Opti and Rotondo Environmental Solutions.

## In the Community – Catch us if you can!



1 CWP team visits the National Museum of African American History and Culture



2 Community Outreach team speaks with community members at the Laurel Open House



3 CWP Contractor Development Specialist attends the Metropolitan Transportation Opportunities Conference, at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA



## CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT

# BOTA Consulting Engineers, Inc.

### How long has your company been in business?

BOTA Consulting Engineers, Inc. (BCE) has been in business since August 2004.

### What is your specialty?

BCE is a civil engineering firm specializing in Geotechnical Engineering services, Construction Management services, Construction Material Testing & Inspection services, and Environment Services (ESA Phase I & II).

### What is a typical day like for you?

Providing overall management of the company (30 employees) to include, sharing technical expertise, business development, proposal preparation and management of technical and administrative personnel.

### What do you want readers to know about you and your company?

We are a minority civil engineering firm with the capability and capacity to perform on big and complex projects to small and less challenging projects.

### If any, what CWP projects have you worked on thus far?

We have not worked on any CWP projects, but we are participating in the Mentor Protégé Program to expand our business to include SWM pond designs, which is very exciting.

### What are you looking forward to gaining from this program?

We are looking forward to expanding our business to include civil engineering site grading design, stormwater management ponds and bio-retention ponds design.



### LEARN MORE

#### Certifications:

MDOT DBE/MBE  
PG County MBE & CBB  
WSSC SLBE  
WMATA  
MWAA

#### Website:

[www.botaengineers.com](http://www.botaengineers.com)

#### Phone:

301-552-8840

## Earth Day at John Hanson Montessori



### Oxon Hill, Maryland

Clean Water Partnership (CWP) team members participated in the John Hanson Montessori Earth Day exhibition on April 27, 2018. The team was stationed between two of the CWP installed devices, a forebay and sand filter, at the rear of the school. Over 75 students visited the CWP station to learn about pollution and types of substances and articles that are not easily recognized as pollutants to the environment. The team also demonstrated how to collectively work together to prevent pollution and protect the waterways. The CWP maintenance expert presented a sand filter demonstration that provided a step-by-step example of how sand filters work. Teachers shared the following feedback on the installed BMPs and demonstrations;

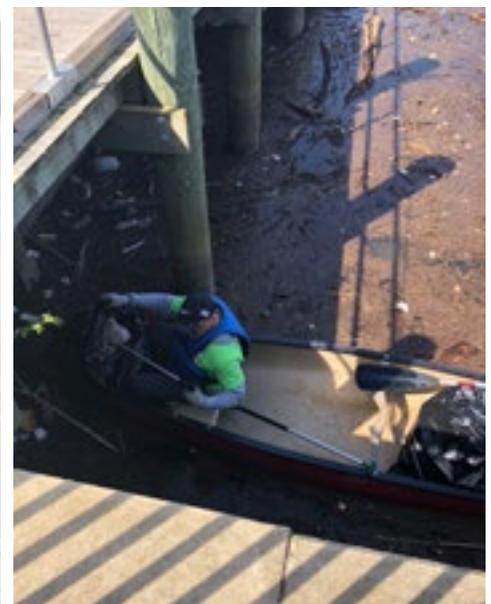
- *"This demonstration today combines what the kids are learning in the classroom and how they can combat pollution."* Mercedita Morles, Science Teacher Grades 6, 7 and 8
- *"These demonstrations are a great way to tie stormwater education into our curriculum. It was quick yet informative and kept their interest."* Mike Schaefer, Social Studies Teacher Grades 6, 7 and 8
- *"This is such a beautiful area and it is so much nicer than it was before you came out to build it."* Loretta King, Teacher Assistant, Substitute

The CWP remains committed to working with local schools to further educate students on the importance of BMPs and other sustainable practices in protecting our waterways.

## Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day Clean-Up

### Bladensburg, Maryland

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) team along with the Corvias team at Howard University, participated in the Anacostia Watershed Society's Clean-up event in support of Earth Day. Friends and family joined as the team collected trash at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Sunny skies, smiling faces and a host of helping hands made for a spectacular event!



## Project Highlights



Ronald Road



Woodmore South



Presbyterian Church of Bowie

## CWP Partners



## CWP Highlights



The National Association of Counties (NACo) granted Prince George's County a 2016 Achievement Award for the development of the Clean Water Partnership, in the category of Community/Economic Development.



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters honored the Prince George's County Department of the Environment's Director, Adam Ortiz, with the 2016 Environmental Leadership Award for his work with Corvias and the Clean Water Partnership.



The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) convenes leaders to turn ideas into action. CGI Commitments to Action represent bold new ways that CGI members address global challenges—implemented through new methods of partnership and designed to maximize impact. Commitments can be small or large, global or local. No matter the size or scope, commitments help CGI members translate practical goals into meaningful and measurable results.

## CONTACT US

### The Clean Water Partnership

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**ABOUT THE CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP:** The Prince George's County and Corvias Public-Private Partnership (P3), also called the Clean Water Partnership, is an agreement between County government and the private sector to retrofit up to 4,000 acres of impervious surfaces using green infrastructure. This community-focused program works to address the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, while simultaneously focusing on the needs of Prince George's County residents and local businesses.